



Montana Association of Counties

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MACo PUBLIC LANDS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Annual Conference, Holiday Inn Downtown, Missoula, MT: September 18, 2018

1. **Roll Call & Introductions:** Roll call was conducted, and everyone present introduced themselves. There was a good presence of both committee and non-committee members.

Members:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Greg Chilcott, Chair, Ravalli | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cory Kirsch, Jefferson |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chris King, Vice Chair, Petroleum | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bob Lee, Rosebud |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dean Blomquist, Golden Valley | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ralph Mannix, Powell |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carol Brooker, Sanders | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike McGinley, Beaverhead |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mike Cole, Lincoln | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phil Mitchell, Flathead (proxy) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jim Courtney, Carter (proxy) | <input type="checkbox"/> Mark Peck, Lincoln |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Todd Devlin, Prairie | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dan Sager, Powell |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Fahlgren, Valley | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jane Weber, Cascade |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jim Hodgskiss, Teton | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Wendland, Hill |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Craig Iverson, Petroleum | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kellieann Morris, MWCA, Ravalli |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laurie Johnston, Mineral | |

2. **Appoint Temporary Secretary for Duration of Meeting:** Commissioner Devlin was appointed to take the minutes of the meeting.
3. **Approval of Minutes (2018 Midwinter Conference):** Commissioner McGinley motioned to approve the minutes as read, and the motion was seconded by Commissioner. Motion passed.
4. **Review Assigned Resolutions:** The committee had one resolution assigned for review and recommendation to the membership:
- Invasive Species Penalties, Lake County
 - There was a motion by Commissioner Wendland to amend "Columbia River Basin" to "all waterways in Montana." The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lee. The resolution passed as amended to make it apply not just for the Columbia River Basin but for all Montana waters.
 - Eric Bryson, MACo Executive Director, explained MCA 7-22-2601 on invasive species. There were concerns about making a resolution amendment to expand authority and the reality that it would not happen.
 - Commissioner McGinley motioned, and Commissioner Weber seconded, to reconsider the resolution on Invasive Species. Motion passed.
 - Commissioner Lee motioned to make a policy statement to reflect what the committee originally wanted to do with the resolution and pass the resolution as originally written. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Fahlgren. Motion passed.
 - New Policy Statement:
 - *MACo supports allowing for any such program developed to protect public health and safety of Montana waterways to be borne by those directly responsible for the potential contamination or introduction of aquatic invasive species in Montana.*

5. Committee Policy Statements Review:

- Policy No. 13 Discussion: *MACo supports the release of all Wilderness Study Areas (WSA's), which have been recommended or evaluated as not suitable for wilderness by the respective agencies and managed in accordance to the principles of the Multiple-Use Sustained Yield Act of 1960.*
 - After long confusing procedure and guidelines discussion, Leanne Martin, USFS, tried to clarify. Basically, we have Wilderness, WSAs, and Wilderness Inventory, which are separate issues. The concern is that the policy states that WSAs recommended not to have wilderness characteristics by the managing agency should be released by an act of Congress prior to being defined as anything other than a WSA, which is confusing. Once the WSA status is taken off, Congress could act, or it could be addressed in amended forest plans or resource management plans.
- There was policy discussion on Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) on state trust lands; question and concerns about the large amount of state trust lands in Daniels County. The history was explained by Mr. Blattie, and the afternoon workshop on the "Big Bill" would give further information.

6. Montana Weed Control Association Update, Kelliann Morris, MWCA Representative: MWCA has proposed legislation to increase taxes on vehicles for noxious weed control. The funding mentality was explained by Harold Blattie.

7. Speakers/Presentations:

- Matt Arno, DNRC, gave a presentation regarding good neighbor authority. Good neighbor authority seems to be working to get projects done.
- Leanne Marten, Region One Forester, USFS
 - Staff Update
 - Shared Stewardship: Shared decision, statewide, brand new, and still a work in progress; a concept paper will be sent to MACo.
 - Fire Issues: Salvage timber, 100 million bdft sold, and 25 million bdft to come.
 - Mushroom Harvest: Big harvest year
 - Vegetation Plan: Timber harvest 390 million, up 321 from previous target
 - Litigation: Last 10 years have had 2,600+ decisions with only 127 decisions (5%) litigated, but they were major decisions with major negative or positive impacts such as the "Cottonwood Decision."
 - Fire Cost from USFS Budget
 - Good Neighbor Authority: Has been a good tool with local and state government and agencies.
 - Stewardship Contracting: Has been extended to up to 20 years.
 - Forest Plans Update and Amendments: Ongoing
 - Questions:
 - Q: RAC status?
 - A: Don't know, will do follow up.
 - Statement: Thanks for coordination and partnership
 - Q: Stonewall status?
 - A: Analysis review
 - Q: Status on litigation of harvest of timber salvage due to fire?
 - A: No litigation yet
- Lesley Robinson, State Director, Congressman Gianforte's Office
 - Spoke on bills with the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) as a funding source
 - LWCF Bill HR 502 40% federal 40% state
 - LWCF HR 6771 proposed to cover 2% admin fee taken out of for O&G state's share

- Wayne Noem, Montana Department of Transportation
 - Secondary road fund update/FLAP program
- NACo WIR & Public Lands Steer Committee Updates: Chairman Chilcott and Commissioner Devlin reported on the happenings of the Western Interstate Region and the NACo Public Lands Steering Committee.

8. Other Business:

- Congressional Staff (Senator Tester's Office, Senator Daines' Office, Congressman Gianforte's Office): Informal discussion on topics of interest.
- Introduction of BLM Associate State Director, Kim Liebhauser

9. Adjourn: There being no further business, the committee adjourned.